

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart Southern District of Ohio

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CONTACT: FRED ALVERSON PHONE: (614) 469-5715 FAX: (614) 469-5503

FORMER NEWARK MINISTER SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

COLUMBUS – David Waser, age 58, of Newark, Ohio was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 120 months imprisonment followed by five years of supervised release as punishment for receiving eleven videos containing child pornography.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Gerald A. O'Farrell, Assistant Inspector in Charge, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Cincinnati Field Office, announced the sentence handed down today by Senior United States District Judge George C. Smith.

Judge Smith also ordered Waser to register as a sex offender after his release from prison, and receive treatment for sexual addiction.

Waser, who was minister at a church in Newark at the time he committed the crime, pled guilty on March 21, 2007 to one count of receiving child pornography which had traveled in interstate commerce.

Waser ordered the videos in response to an ad on the Internet selling child pornography on June 17, 2006. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service posted the ad as part of an ongoing investigation into trafficking of child pornography.

Waser ordered the videos and sent a money order for \$130 to the address in the ad. A U.S. Postal Inspector posing as a letter carrier delivered a package containing the videos to Waser's residence on July 19, 2006. The Postal Inspector obtained a federal search warrant immediately after the delivery. While searching Waser's residence, the inspector found that the package had been opened and one tape had been put into a VCR in Waser's bedroom.

Postal Inspectors arrested Waser. He has been in custody since his arrest.

"Child pornography exploits the most vulnerable members of society – our children," Lockhart said. "Buyers of child pornography feed the appetites of those who would harm children in order to make a buck."

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Lockhart commended the investigation by postal inspectors and Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah A. Solove who prosecuted the case.